

July 14, 2004

SIMA Sailors help Casa de Oro fire victims

“People are in need and we are trying to help them,” said EN2(SW) Hugh Rigall. The sentiments of this Lake Jackson, Texas, native was echoed by the other nearly 50 volunteers who helped prepare the 6th floor of Casa de Oro for renovations on the afternoon of July 14, after fire damage left 14 elderly residents displaced earlier this month. The volunteers were Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity Ingleside Sailors and two Supervisor of Shipbuilding Detachment Ingleside employees.

After hearing about a fire at the retirement home, HTC James Easley, of SIMA Ingleside, contacted officials at Casa de Oro to see what he could do to help. It was easy for him to get his shipmates to volunteer. They worked throughout the hot afternoon tearing down the sheetrock in the hallway, scraping acoustic covering from the ceilings, tearing out the carpeting and its padding throughout the 6th floor hallway and affected apartments, moving furniture, and cleaning out the apartment where the fire started. They hauled all the debris from the 6th floor and removed it into dumpsters adjacent to the apartment complex using shopping carts and a very slow elevator.

Cleaning up the “mess” -- the dirty work -- the Ingleside personnel did would have cost nearly \$100,000, but these Sailors were glad to be helping. “It was a good thing to do,” said EN2(SW) Joseph Glenwood, a native of Glenwood, Wash.

Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity Ingleside provides both intermediate and depot level maintenance to support the mine warfare fleet of 14 mine countermeasures ships and 12 coastal mine hunters. SIMA is one of 48 tenant commands located aboard Naval Station Ingleside.